



STATEMENT OF CONSCIENCE AGAINST WAR AND REPRESSI

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*The **New** Not in Our Name Statement of Conscience, opposing the domestic and international agenda of the Bush government, is signed by over 15,000 people and appeared in the New York Times on Sunday, January 23, and in the San Francisco Chronicle on Thursday, February 3. LA TIMES, February 15. Please help us get it published in other publications*

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As George W. Bush bullies his way through his second term, let it not be said that people in the United States silently acquiesced in the face of this shameful program of war, greed, and intolerance. He does not speak for us. He does not represent us. He does not act in our name.

No election, whether fair or fraudulent, can legitimize criminal wars on foreign countries, torture, the wholesale violation of human rights, and the end of science and reason.

In our name, the Bush government justifies the invasion and occupation of Iraq on false pretenses, raining down destruction, horror, and misery, bringing death to more than 100,000 Iraqis. It sends our youth to destroy entire cities for the sake of so-called democratic elections, while intimidating and disenfranchising thousands of African American and other voters at home.

In our name, the Bush government holds in contempt international law and world opinion. It carries out torture and detentions without trial around the world and proposes new assaults on our rights of privacy, speech and assembly at home. It strips the rights of Arabs, Muslims and South Asians in the U.S., denies them legal counsel, stigmatizes and holds them without cause. Thousands have been deported.

As new trial balloons are floated about invasions of Syria, or Iran, or North Korea, about leaving the United Nations, about new "lifetime detention" policies, we say not in our name will we allow further crimes to be committed against nations or individuals deemed to stand in the way of the goal of unquestioned world supremacy.

Could we have imagined a few years ago that core principles such as the separation of church and state, due process, presumption of innocence, freedom of speech, and *habeas corpus* would be discarded so easily? Now, anyone can be declared an "enemy combatant" without meaningful redress or independent review by a President who is concentrating power in the executive branch. His choice for Attorney General is the legal architect of the torture that has been carried out in Guantánamo, Afghanistan, and Abu Ghraib.

The Bush government seeks to impose a narrow, intolerant, and political form of Christian fundamentalism as government policy. No longer on the margins of power, this extremist movement aims to strip women of their reproductive rights, to stoke hatred of gays and lesbians, and to drive a wedge between spiritual experience and scientific truth. We will not surrender to extremists our right to think. AIDS is not a punishment from God. Global warming is a real danger. Evolution happened. All people must be free to find meaning and sustenance in whatever form of religious or spiritual belief they choose. But religion can never be compulsory. These extremists may claim to make their own reality, but we will not allow them to make ours.

Millions of us worked, talked, marched, poll watched, contributed, voted, and did everything we could to defeat the Bush regime in the last election. This unprecedented effort brought forth new

energy, organization, and commitment to struggle for justice. It would be a terrible mistake to let our failure to stop Bush in these ways lead to despair and inaction. On the contrary, this broad mobilization of people committed to a fairer, freer, more peaceful world must move forward. We cannot, we will not, wait until 2008. The fight against the second Bush regime has to start now.

The movement against the war in Vietnam never won a presidential election. But it blocked troop trains, closed induction centers, marched, spoke to people door to door -- and it helped to stop a war. The Civil Rights Movement never tied its star to a presidential candidate; it sat in, freedom rode, fought legal battles, filled jailhouses -- and changed the face of a nation.

We must change the political reality of this country by mobilizing the tens of millions who know in their heads and hearts that the Bush regime's "reality" is nothing but a nightmare for humanity. This will require creativity, mass actions and individual moments of courage. We must come together whenever we can, and we must act alone whenever we have to.

We draw inspiration from the soldiers who have refused to fight in this immoral war. We applaud the librarians who have refused to turn over lists of our reading, the high school students who have demanded to be taught evolution, those who brought to light torture by the U.S. military, and the massive protests that voiced international opposition to the war on Iraq. We affirm ordinary people undertaking extraordinary acts. We pledge to create community to back courageous acts of resistance. We stand with the people throughout the world who fight every day for the right to create their own future.

It is our responsibility to stop the Bush regime from carrying out this disastrous course. We believe history will judge us sharply should we fail to act decisively.

Over 15,000 people have now signed this statement. Among the initial signers are:

James Abourezk , former U.S. senator	Nina Felshin , author of <i>But is it Art</i> , <i>The Spirit of Art as Activism</i>	Rosalind Petchesky , Distinguished Professor of Political Science, Hunter College & the Graduate Center - CUNY
Janet Abu-Lughod , professor emerita, New School	Lawrence Ferlinghetti	Jeremy Pikser , screenwriter (Bulwark)
As'ad AbuKhalil , California State University, Stanislaus	Laura Flanders	Frances Fox Piven
Michael Albert	Carolyn Forché	James Stewart Polshek , architect
Edward Asner	Michael Franti	William Pope L
Ti-Grace Atkinson	Su Friedrich	Francine Prose
Michael Avery , president, National Lawyers Guild	Boo Froebel	Jerry Quickley , poet
Russell Banks	Nancy Garden	Michael Ratner , president, Center for Constitutional Rights
Amiri Baraka	Peter Gerety	David Riker , filmmaker
Rosalyn Baxandall , chair, American Studies/Media and Communications, State University of New York at Old Westbury	Jorie Graham , Harvard University	Larry Robinson , mayor of Sebastopol, CA
Medea Benjamin , cofounder of Global Exchange and Code Pink	André Gregory	Stephen Rohde , civil liberties lawyer
Phyllis Bennis	Jessica Hagedorn , writer	Matthew Rothschild , editor, <i>The Progressive</i> magazine
Larry Bensky , Pacifica radio	Suheir Hammad	Luc Sante
Michael Berg	Sam Hamill , Poets Against the War	James Schamus
Terry Bisson	Danny Hoch , playwright/actor	Peter Dale Scott
Jessica Blank and Erik Jensen	Marie Howe	Roberta Segal-Sklar , communications director, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force
William Blum , author, <i>US foreign policy</i>	Abdeen M. Jabara , past president, American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee	Frank Serpico
St. Clair Bourne	Jim Jarmusch , filmmaker	Betty Shamieh
Judith Butler , author and professor, University of California at Berkeley	Bill T. Jones	Wallace Shawn
Julia Butterfly , director, Circle of Life Foundation	Rickie Lee Jones	Gregory Sholette
Leslie Cagan , national coordinator, United for Peace and Justice	David Kazanjian	Zach Sklar
Kathleen & Henry Chalfant	Barbara Kingsolver	Peter Sollett
Noam Chomsky , MIT	C. Clark Kissinger , <i>Refuse & Resist!</i>	Starhawk
Ramsey Clark , former U.S. Attorney-General	Evelyn Fox Keller , Professor of History of Science, MIT	Tony Taccone
Marilyn Clement , nat'l coordinator, Campaign for a National Health Program NOW	Hans Koning , writer	Grace Tsao
Robbie Conal , artist	David Korn	Alice Walker
Peter Coyote	David C. Korten	Naomi Wallace
John Cusack	Rabbi Michael Lerner , editor, <i>TIKKUN</i> magazine & Rabbi, Beit Tikkun Synagogue, SF	Immanuel Wallerstein
Angela Davis	Phil Lesh , Grateful Dead	Leonard Weinglass
	Staughton Lynd	Peter Weiss , president, Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy
	Reynaldo F. Macías , chair, National Association for Chicana & Chicano Studies	Cornel West
	Karen Malpede	
	Dave Marsh	
	Maryknoll Sisters , Western Region	

Diane di Prima, poet

Ronnie Dugger, co-founder, Alliance for Democracy

Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz

Michael Eric Dyson

Nora Eisenberg, author of War at Home and Just the Way You Want Me

Daniel Ellsberg, former Defense and State Department official

Kathy Engel

Eve Ensler

Jim McDermott, Member of Congress, State of Washington

Robert Meeropol, executive director, Rosenberg Fund for Children

Ann Messner

Robin Morgan, author and activist

Walter Mosley

Wayne Nafziger

Jill Nelson, writer

Odetta

C.K. Williams, poet, Princeton Univ
Saul Williams

Krzysztof Wodiczko, director, Cen for Advanced Visual Studies, MIT

Damian Woetzel, principal dancer, York City Ballet

David Zeiger, Displaced Films

Zephyr

Howard Zinn, historian

[The Original Not In Our Name Statement of Conscience \[2002\]](#)

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